

**MINUTES OF A REMOTE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON
THURSDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 4.00PM BY MS TEAMS**

Present:

Mr G McGivern (Chairman)
Mr J Lennon
Mr G Maguire
Mr H Sinclair
Mr J Stewart

In attendance:

Mr I Stevenson
Miss S Blain

2021/9/1 Apologies

An apology had been received from Mrs O Chesney.

2021/9/2 Declaration of Interests Pertaining to Agenda Items for Discussion

The Board agreed that none of the agenda items required any Board members to abstain from discussions.

**Compliance with the Management Statement & Financial Memorandum,
Sponsor Manual and Managing Public Money NI**

Confirmed.

2021/9/3 Discussion of Joint DAERA/LMC Board meeting held on Thursday 25th November 2021

The Board agreed the meeting with the DAERA Board had been very informative. It had been useful to hear the areas DAERA was focussing its attention on in the current mandate although disappointing that the resolution of LMC Board succession was not high on its agenda

2021/9/4 Minutes of Commission Meeting Held on 25 October 2021

The minutes of a meeting, held on 25 October 2021, were approved by the Commission and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mr G Maguire
Seconded: Mr J Stewart

Signed _____
Chairman

2021/9/5 Matters Arising

- **Kendall report**

The Board agreed that members will be available to discuss the report at short notice.

Action Point: The Chairman and Chief Executive will ask DAERA to advise LMC as soon as a publication date for Kendall report is known.

- **NIFCC AGM**

Mrs Chesney and Mr Stewart attended the recent NIFCC AGM.

2021/9/6 Correspondence

- **FD (DoF) 09/21 Remuneration of chairpersons and members of public bodies**

Action Point: The Board agreed not to apply the remuneration increase for chairperson and board members.

2021/9/7 Chairman's Report

- **Virtual UFU Event** - The Chairman and Chief Executive had attended a virtual event arranged by UFU at the end of October. Minister Lyons was the keynote speaker.
- **Agriculture and Climate Change Conference** – This conference was also arranged by UFU at the end of October and opened by Minister Poots. The keynote speaker was Professor Alice Denton.
- **Quarterly Assurance Meeting** – The Chairman and Chief Executive attended the quarterly assurance meeting with the Sponsor branch.

2021/9/8 Chief Executive's Report

In advance of the meeting the Chief Executive had circulated a report relating to this section of the meeting.

Signed _____
Chairman

- **Covid-19**

LMC continues to follow the Covid-19 pandemic guide to the coronavirus restrictions in Northern Ireland and the public health advice.

- **Staffing Matters**

Three of the six vacant staff positions have been filled and a further external recruitment round is going live this weekend for the other vacancies.

- **Sponsor Branch Meeting**

The Chairman and Chief Executive met the new Senior Sponsor Sharon McFlynn at the quarterly accountability meeting on 9 November 2021. A number of important matters were discussed including the Minister's decision to initiate the recruitment of a new LMC Chairman and Board members in time for May 2022.

- **Northern Ireland Affairs Committee**

The Chief Executive will be giving oral evidence to the NI Affairs Committee on 15 December 2021.

- **Consultations**

The Chief Executive advised that a number of important strategies have been published by DAERA for public consultation. LMC has or will be submitting responses to the consultations.

- **Certification Services Business Case**

The Chief Executive advised that Certification Services business case had been approved by DAERA and it will now go out to tender.

2021/9/9 Risk Management/Health & Safety

- **Internal Audit**

The internal audit is ongoing at the moment and fieldwork should be completed by the year end.

Signed _____
Chairman

2021/9/10 Any Other Business

- **PGI**

The Chief Executive advised that DEFRA will be opposing the Irish PGI application and is gathering evidence to submit to the European Commission.

- **Red Tractor**

A meeting with Red Tractor will be held on 16 December 2021 after which the Chief Executive will be able to give an update on the LMC proposal for equivalence of FQAS with Red Tractor.

2021/9/11 Date of Next Meeting

The next LMC Board meeting will be held on Monday 31 January 2021 at 10am on Microsoft Teams.

The Board meeting ended at 5.15pm.

Signed _____
Chairman